



COURIER

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May 2014

Parson's Perspective

Special Points

Of Interest

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Christ arose! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! This declaration of Easter is still ringing in our ears. During the 40 days of Lent, we reflected on the temptation of Jesus that lasted 40 days. This period recalled the 40 days that the Israelites wandered in the wilderness. But the 40 days after the resurrection are seldom discussed, as reflected in the words of Rick Marschall:

One of the most significant periods of the church calendar, and least celebrated or noted, is the 40 days after Jesus rose from the dead. He walked and talked in places where his ministry had been. He was seen in his restored body by thousands. He healed many. He continued to preach. He continued to love! And then he ascended to heaven, taken up in the sky, which also was witnessed by others.

This causes one to wonder about the relationship that Jesus had with his followers during that time.

One reason Jesus stayed on earth after his resurrection was to demonstrate to His followers that he truly was alive. It must have been a wonderful time. Much of the theology that was written by the witnesses that walked with Jesus may well have been formulated during those 40 days. Jesus gave the apostles the "Great Commission." He told them to go into all the world preaching the good news and making disciples of all nations. He also instructed them to wait together in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit to empower them. Jesus walked this earth with his disciples and prepared them for telling the good news that he, the Son of God, had come to humankind to save them. He did this by demonstrating he was God.

When Jesus appeared to his followers after the resurrection, their lives were changed. The greatest miracle in all history had just taken place: Jesus Christ was alive! Jesus taught his disciples, and prepared them for the task of telling the world about their faith in their savior. He encouraged each of those who walked with him, graced them with his presence, gave them hope that would last the rest of their lives and inspired them so completely that they were ready to die for him. This is a plausible picture, because Jesus still does this today!

Pastor Bob

THIS MONTH IN THE CHURCH

Sunday, May 4 - 9:30 a.m. Adult Class
Second Week of a five part Class "Faith and Science" Led by Richard Hays

PW Birthday Offering will be received
(See special article in this newsletter)

Wednesday, May 7— 1:30 p.m. Circle Meetings:

Esther Circle at the home of Kay Weir, 404 Ramble Road— Study Leader: Evelyn Baker
Martha Mary Circle at the Residents' Cottage, Bible Study Leader: Elaine Zingg

Friday, May 9 and Saturday May 10
New Beginnings Training Workshop
at the Martin DePorres Center, in Columbus

Sunday, May 11 - Mother's Day
All Women will receive a gift

9:30 a.m. Adult Class - "Faith and Science"
Richard Hays, Leader

Tuesday, May 13 - 7:00 p.m. Discussions
On Homosexuality (3 weeks) Led by Earl And Patty Todt (See article in this "Courier")

Thursday, May 15 - 10:30 a.m.
Communion at Bristol Health Care

4:00 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting

Sunday, May 18 - 9:30 a.m.
Adult Class - "Faith and Science" led by Richard Hays

Monday, May 19 - 7:00 p.m.
Session Meeting

Tuesday, May 20 - 7:00 p.m.
"Homosexuality in Our Church Family"

Wednesday, May 21 - 1:45 p.m.
P.W.C.T. At the home of Audrey Tysen,
357 Wendy Lane

Sunday, May 25 - 9:30 a.m. Adult Class
Final Class on "Faith and Science" Led by Richard Hays

Sunday, May 25 - Communion (Deacons' Offering)

Monday, May 26 - Memorial Day
Church Closed

Tuesday, May 27 - 7:00 p.m.
"Homosexuality in our Community"

MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 3 - John Voorhes
6 - Nancy Seward
7 - David Bell
8 - Ralph Strickland
13 - Virginia Dixon
14 - Irene Noble
16 - Patty Strickland
31 - Andrew Hays



MAY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

May 8 - Virginia and George Hartwell
11 - Juliet and Bob Getty
16 - Tammy and William Niebling



NEW ADDRESS

Judith Harrell - 901 Gayfer Avenue, #715
Fairhope, AL. 36532 Apartment Complex is
Arbor Gates.
Judith would welcome any news from friends.

Scripture Texts for Sunday Worship April 2014

May 4	Third Sunday of Easter Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35 Pastor Rick: "Hearts Burning or Burned Out"
May 11	Fourth Sunday of Easter Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10 Pastor Rick: "Is Jesus a Stranger?"
May 18	Fifth Sunday of Easter Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10 ; John 14:1-14 Pastor Rick: "A Spiritual Temple"
May 25	Sixth Sunday of Easter Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22 ; John 14:15-21 Pastor Rick: "Speak Your Hope"

Post-Easter Opportunities for Growing Disciples

Following the Resurrection of their Master, the disciples were eager to learn more about faith and about their mission from the risen Lord. Therefore, Easter people still today desire to be growing disciples of Christ. The Discipleship Committee is providing two special opportunities for our nurture.

1. A new five-week **Adult Church School** class began on April 27th. This Sunday, 9:30 a.m. class is titled "Faith and Science" and is being led by Richard Hays. Christians cannot escape the fact that we live in a world of faith and science. The world is especially immersed in how much our daily living is impacted by scientific discoveries. How does this scientific age effect our beliefs?

You are invited to join this class to explore together this timely study.

2. The second opportunity will be given on **Tuesday evenings starting on May 13th from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.** The subject for discussion is at least as old as the Book of Leviticus and as relevant as today's news. Patty and Earl Todt have volunteered to lead a series of discussions on Homosexuality. There will be three sessions in May and a follow-up on **September 9th.**

The dates and topics are: **May 13 - "Our experience with homosexuality in our family"** **May 20 - "Homosexuality in our church family"** and **May 27 - Homosexuality in our community"** **September 9 - "Homosexuality in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**

Plan now to take advantage of this opportunity to learn and share.



Fifth Wednesday Conversations
April 30, 1:30 PM

Everyone is invited to join Presbyterian Women as we hear a message from Carol Winkler of Cincinnati concerning

the 1000 Day Movement,
an ecumenical project supported by
Bread for the World

which promotes food aid throughout the world. The goal of the movement is to "scale up nutrition" for women and young children during the 1000 days from pregnancy to a child's second birthday.

We are encouraged to spread the word about proper nutrition and to impress on our government leaders the importance of supporting and protecting programs that prioritize nutrition for women and children during this critical 1,000 day window. We need to work on this problem globally and locally. We can also become more aware of what is done in Pike County as we think about this important time of a child's life.

Carol is the representative from the Presbyterian Women Synod of the Covenant (our Synod) to the Churchwide Coordinating Team of PW.

Come and bring a friend.
Refreshments will be served.

PW Birthday Offering
May 4

DO NOT FORSAKE ME, O LORD

This year, Presbyterian Women will answer the call to show Jesus' love to the world by offering our prayer and financial support to Blue Corn Mothers Alliance in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The entire offering goes to this one mission. This organization offers a range of services for Native American women who have experienced domestic violence. Through a Birthday Offering grant Blue Corn Mothers advocacy center will operate five days a week (rather than just one) providing crisis intervention, health, counseling and education services, and referrals for legal and shelter services.

This program is the only one in the area that offers domestic violence counseling with a focus on Native American cultural sensitivity. It is run out of the La Mesa Presbyterian Church. The money received will be leveraged, allowing them to compete for funding locally from the city of Albuquerque and nationally. Blue Corn Alliance hopes that these additional sources of funding can help open a shelter.

The actual grant amount will depend on the monies received in 2014. We ask that you give as you have been blessed, generously and as led by the Holy spirit. Envelopes for this offering are in your boxes of envelopes.

IMPORTANT PW SURVEY COMING-

The Coordinating Team will be conducting a survey beginning at the May Circle Meetings to consider if the two Circles would like to gather together for all the meetings. More explanation and several options might be possible. We would like each person in the Circles to respond by the time the CT meets on May 21. Completed surveys can be placed in the designated box on the kiosk at church or given to one of the Circle Leaders. Watch for the Survey sheet at the May 7th Circles.

LOOKING AHEAD-

Plan now to attend our combined-circle meeting on Wednesday, June 4, at the church. We will have special guest, Betty Kennedy, Moderator of PWPSV, who will install our officers. Also our own special Karen Henderson, who is vice-moderator for Study/Spiritual Development will lead the Bible Study.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>May 2014</h1> 						
				1	2	3
4 9:30 a.m. Adult Class 10:45 a.m. Worship Birthday Offering	5	6	7 8:00 a.m. Sl. Tuggers 1:30 p.m. Circle Mtgs. 7 p.m. Choir	8	9 New Beginnings Workshop May 9-10 Columbus	10
11 9:30 a.m. Adult Class 10:45 a.m. Worship Mother's Day 	12	13 7 p.m. Homosexuality Discussion Group	14 8 a.m. Sl. Tuggers 7 p.m. Choir	15  10:30 a.m. Communion Bristol Health Care 4 p.m. Worship	16	17
18 9:30 a.m. Adult Class 10:45 a.m. Worship	19 7 p.m. Session Mtg.	20 7 p.m. Homosexuality Discussion Group	21 8 a.m. Sl. Tuggers 1:45 p.m. P.W.C.T. 7 p.m. Choir	22	23	24
25 9:30 a.m. Ad. Class 10:45 a.m. Worship Communion Deacons' Off. 	26 Memorial Day Church Closed 	27 7 p.m. Homosexuality Discussion Group	28 8 a.m. Sleeve-Tuggers	29	30	31

Hymn of the Month: "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks"

In this new article we will investigate some of the music in our **Glory to God** hymnbook. Many of its hymns and songs are familiar to us, but there are many new and exciting ones, too.

We're starting out with an Easter hymn we already know, introduced to our congregation in **The Presbyterian Hymnal** and carried over to our new one. "**Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks**", #240 in **Glory to God**, was created for The Word of God Community, an ecumenical, charismatic, missionary Christian group in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Donald Fishel composed it, weaving the music and lyrics together, in the summer of 1971. Betty Pulkingham assisted him with arranging it in 1979.

This energetic resurrection hymn's catchy chorus encourages the congregation sing out with vigor and confidence, just the way we should sing when proclaiming Christ's resurrection. Those of us with voices that reach the higher notes cannot resist singing the lovely descant to that chorus. What an inspiring way to proclaim our Easter faith!

If you read music, you will notice that this hymn was written in four sharps, the key of E Major. This is not a key that is very common in hymnbooks, but a musician would say this key gives a positive "edge" to the music. "Edge" means that the music sounds brighter than if it were written in the key of Eb, which is much more comfortable to play. I suspect it was originally written for guitar. E Major is a very resonant key for guitar and it is also easy to finger the chords. If that is true, then Fishel and Pulkingham might have decided to keep the original key because they liked that "edge", much to the chagrin of keyboard players everywhere.

Now your job is to get a copy of our hymnal and read the words out loud. Even better, get a group together and sing it with a piano or keyboard.

Next month's hymn – "**As the Wind Song**"

Paula Hays, Discipleship Committee



The Drama/Dance Group from the Christian Institute of Payap University in Thailand performed at our Worship Service March 30th. Traveling with them was Esther Wakeman, a PCUSA missionary whom we support and her husband. Following worship, we hosted a lunch for them.



Juliet and Bob Getty busy in the kitchen cooking soup for one of our Soup Nights during Lent. There were a variety of soups and were all very delicious. Thanks to everyone who made this possible.

WORLD MISSION REPORT

Bruce Whearty, World Mission Church Support Associate for PCUSA, recently sent a letter. Here are excerpts:

“Thank you so much for your continued support of the general funds which support all of our mission co-workers, wherever the need is greatest....This month I share a letter that [describes] the impact of a typhoon in the Philippines, but also makes observations about the nature of poverty which are relevant to our own communities.”

[The following is from a letter written last November by Cobbie Palm, who serves with his wife Dessa in the Philippines.]

Typhoon Yolanda remains very present in our lives as each day the death toll rises and institutions that were once able to offer help are forced to close.... The reality is the sad awakening that poverty is vulnerability. The question has been raised about why so many people and families living in the 55,514 homes that were totally destroyed, many who died, did not evacuate. The answer is poverty. These houses are simple *nipo*, bamboo houses with no metal locks or grills on the window to protect their few items. These families had worked years to pay for 1 TV, or stove/oven. To leave the home could mean the possibility of losing everything, not from the storm but from a break-in robbery. The loss would be so much to these families and would be devastating. This is the vulnerability of poverty.

Bethany Hospital, set up by Presbyterian Missions in 1918, which has served the region for 95 years, had to temporarily close. The hospital had lost so much equipment and suffered so much damage that it could no longer maintain the salaries of employees, and had to close for rehabilitation. Volunteers are helping patients, but there is not a sustainable solution. This is the vulnerability of poverty. Silliman Water Ministry, a project to provide clean drinking water, is presently constructing portable water filtration systems, and is sending units to Bethany Hospital where larger and larger crowds gather for treatment.

People find ways to survive, but they are fragile and desperate and often depend on outside institutions and organizations. The road to recovery will be sure, but long and winding. Your prayers and support will continue to be our strength.

MEMBERS IN MINISTRY

MAY 2014

Ministers for Community: Every Member

Co-Pastors: Richard Hays and Robert Getty

Secretary Barbara Patterson

Clerk of Session: Audrey Tysen

Choir Director: Karen Henderson

Organist: Patricia Penrose

Treasurer: Robert Neely

Ministers for Vision and Mission: Session

<u>Class of 2014</u>	<u>Class of 2015</u>	<u>Class of 2016</u>
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Karen Henderson	Juliet Getty	David Bell
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Paula Hays	Betsy Hall	Robert Neely
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Audrey Tysen	Marian Odell	Irene Noble
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Kay Weir	Dick Roberts	Glenn Noble
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Ministers for Member Care: Deacons

Don Kerry	Kitty Neely	Gerald Barnes
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Ministers Serving In Other Places

Pike County Outreach Council of Churches

Pike County Welfare House

Mark, Jenny, Keila Rosa & Anika Estela Hare – Papay, Haiti

Dendamrongsaat Church – Chiangrai, Thailand

Ministers Serving from Home

At Bristol Health Care

444 Cherry St., Waverly OH 45690

Gerald Barnes-309-A

Maryanna Cassady-14

Patricia Dixon-28

Anna Dodge-111

Ed Dodge-103

Virginia Hartwell-102

Dorothy Headley-5-A

Agnes Nash-5-B

Ben Lane-118

Oscar Marsh-301

Jay Yetter-1

The Gardens

Betty and David Jenkins-202

At Home

Virginia Dixon, Lew Stratton, Marlene Voorhes

May Worship Assistants:

May 4 - Florence Vonderohe

11 - Ivan Sumey

18 - Glenn Peterson

25 -

May Greeters:

May 4 - Kitty and Bob Neely

11 - Jean and Paul Sydow

18 - Betty and Ivan Sumey

25 - Lois Hardy and

Florence Vonderohe

May Ushers:

May 4 - Bob Neely, Kitty Neely, David Bell

11 - Ann Oyer, Marian Odell,

Lois Hardy, Wanda Stratton

18 - Bud Hobday, Earl Todt

25 - Ralph Strickland, Tom Frank,

Dimitry Sergay

May Flowers:

May 4 -

11 - Tammy and William Niebling

18 - Ted Bates

25 -

May Coffee Hour Hosts:

May 4 - Cay and Dick Roberts

11 -

18 - Wanda and Lew Stratton

25 - Communion

May Counters:

May 4 - Robert Neely and Mike Milam

11 - Ted Bates and Kay Weir

18 - Betsy Hall and Nancy Seward

25 - Dave Bell and Anne Young

Address Service Requested

WAVERLY, OHIO 45690

211 SCHMITT DR.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

AMEN CORNER

What about between Sundays, ministering amid the traffic?

Sundays are easy. The sanctuary is clean and orderly, the symbolism clear, the people polite. ... And the people are ready, arriving dressed up and expectant. Centuries of tradition converge in this Sunday singing of hymns, exposition of Scripture, commitments of faith, offering of prayers, baptizing, eating and drinking the life of our Lord. ... Sundays are important — celebrative and essential. The first day defines and energizes our lives by means of our Lord's resurrection and gives a resurrection shape to the week. But the six days between Sundays are just as important, if not so celebrative, for they are the days to which the resurrection shape is given. Since most (Christian experience) takes place on the six days, an equivalent attention must be given to them, practicing the art of prayer in the middle of the traffic.

What are some specific acts for Christian (who want to influence the culture around them)?

They're common Christian acts. The acts of sacrificial love, justice, and hope. There's nothing novel in any of this. Our task is that we develop a self-identity as Christians and do these things not incidentally to our lives, but centrally. By encouraging one another, by praying together, by studying Scripture together, we develop a sense that these things are in fact the very center of our lives. And we recognize they are not the center of the world's life, however much cultural talk there is about Christianity. If we can develop a sense that sacrificial love, justice, and hope are at the core of our identities — they go to our jobs with us each day, to our families each night — then we are in fact (influencing our culture).

by Peterson, E. H. *The Contemplative Pastor: Returning to the art of spiritual direction.*